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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 NIC-01 AID-20 DRC-01

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R 251253Z SEP 74 FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8934 AMEMBASSY PARIS

CONFIDENTIAL NIAMEY 3227

E.O. 11652: NGDS TAGS: PDIP. NG. IV

SUBJECT: ANDRE WRIGHT: NEW NIGERIEN AMBASSADOR TO IVORY COAST

- 1. GON HAS APPOINTED ANDRE WRIGHT AS ITS AMBASSADOR IN ABIDJAN. BY RAISING ITS ABIDJAN MISSION TO EMBASSY STATUS, GON IS EMPHASIZING DEPERSONALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES SINCE OVERTHROW OF DIORI.
- 2. WRIGHT, A METIS, IS MEMBER OF PROMINENT NIGERIEN FAMILY OF GUINEAN ORIGIN. #HIS BROTHER IS SECRETARY GENERAL OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND HIS FATHER WAS DIRECTOR OF PRIMARY EDUCATION. SEVERAL OTHER BROTHERS AND SISTERS HOLD LESSER POSTS IN GON.) BORN IN 1936, WRIGHT WAS EDUCATED IN FRANCE WHERE HE CLAIMS HE BECAME GOOD FRIENDS DURING STUDENT DAYS WITH CURRENT IVORIEN FOREIGN MINISTER AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF FOREIGGN MINISTRY. HE HAS SERVED AS FIRST SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON, WHERE HE MET HIS FRENCH WIFE, WITH THE OAU IN ADDIS, AND MOST RECENTLY AS DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN MOFA. HE WAS ORIGINALLY SLATED TO BE NIGER'S AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS BUT BECAUSE OF EEC NEGOTIATIONS, GON DECIDED TO KEEP ITS PRESENT AMBASSADOR JEAN JOISSON.

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3. WRIGHT IS SOCIABLE AND QUITE FRIENDLY WITH AMERICANS.

HE IS NOT AN INTELLECTUAL, BUT BEHIND HIS JESTING AND
OCCASIONAL FLIPPANCY THERE IS A GOOD HEAD. HE SPEAKS
FAIRLY GOOD ENGLISH.HECK

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